2. Claim Amendments

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A method of facilitating patient access to pharmacies, comprising:

establishing in a database on a computer server a prescription registry in which patients who have joined said prescription registry may store information regarding their prescriptions;

transmitting said information from a member device to said computer server over a computer network connecting the member device and the computer server;

receiving and storing said information in said prescription registry on said computer server;

assigning by said computer server a prescription identifier to said information for each prescription, wherein each prescription identifier is uniquely associated with an individual prescription within said prescription registry, and storing said prescription identifier in a record associated with such prescription in said database on said computer server, said prescription identifier initially known only to said patients and said prescription registry, and wherein said prescription identifier is assigned either sequentially or pseudo-randomly;

transmitting from said computer server to said member device a list of pharmacies that have subscribed to said prescription registry, said list

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including contact information which said patients may use to contact and provide said pharmacies with one or more prescription identifiers; and

allowing said pharmacies to access said information stored on said prescription registry using said prescription identifiers by means of a connection between a client computer and said computer server over said network.

transmitting a prescription request from a pharmacy device to said computer server, wherein said prescription request comprises said prescription identifier, which was previously provided to a pharmacy associated with said pharmacy device by that one of said patients who submitted the prescription information associated with the prescription identifier;

searching said prescription registry for said record containing said prescription identifier received from said pharmacy device;

transmitting said prescription associated with said prescription identifier from said prescription registry on said computer server to said pharmacy device whereby the pharmacy associated with said pharmacy device may fill the prescription; and

locking said record containing said prescription identifier such that a different pharmacy may not receive and fill said prescription associated with said record from said prescription registry even if said different pharmacy possess said prescription identifier.

2. (cancelled)

3. (previously amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said step of receiving said information includes receiving from said member device a scanned image file at said computer server of an original prescription slip for each prescription.

4. (original) The method according to claim 3, wherein said step of receiving said information further includes obtaining physical possession of an original prescription slip for each prescription.

5. (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein said prescription identifier includes a fill code for each patient that may be used for all prescriptions belonging to said patient.

6. (original) The method according to claim 5, wherein said prescription identifier further includes a prescription number for each prescription of said patient.

7. (original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising requiring said pharmacies to satisfy one or more qualification criteria, including passing a background check, in order to subscribe to said prescription registry.

8. (original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising requiring said subscribing pharmacies to pay a fee to said prescription registry.

9. (currently amended) A system for facilitating patient access to pharmacies, comprising:

a prescription registry on a computer server, said prescription registry including at least one database therein for storing prescription information and further including a user interface for said at least one database, said user interface comprising: a member login screen for allowing a member of said prescription registry to access said at least one database;

a prescription information screen for allowing a member services provider operator to capture prescription information for one or more prescriptions of said member;

a prescription upload screen for allowing said member services provider operator to upload said prescription information, including a scanned image file of each prescription, to said at least one database;

a prescription verification screen for allowing a pharmacy to access said prescriptions using a prescription identifier assigned by the computer server, wherein each prescription identifier is uniquely associated within said prescription registry with an individual prescription, said prescription identifier initially known only to said member and said prescription registry,

~~and wherein said prescription identifier is created using either a sequential~~

~~assignment process or a pseudo-random assignment process~~; and

a prescription acceptance screen for allowing said pharmacy to

accept said one or more prescriptions and for locking each prescription

that is accepted by said pharmacy from further access <u>by a different</u>

<u>pharmacy even if such different pharmacy possesses said prescription</u>

<u>identifier</u>.

10. (original) The system according to claim 9, wherein said user interface

further comprises a membership application screen for accepting new members

to said prescription registry.

11. (original) The system according to claim 9, wherein said user interface

further comprises a member services screen for allowing said member to search

for member services providers and pharmacies.

12. (cancelled)

13. (original) The system according to claim 9, wherein said user interface

further comprises a member services screen for allowing said member to update

membership information.

14. (original) The system according to claim 9, wherein said user interface further comprises a membership verification screen for allowing said member services provider operator to verify a membership of said member.

15. (original) The system according to claim 9, wherein said user interface further comprises a membership verification screen for allowing said pharmacy to verify a membership of said member.

16. (currently amended) A prescription registry service, comprising:

a database resident on a server computer and configured to store prescription information wherein said prescription information comprises a prescription identifier for each prescription <u>assigned by the server computer</u>, wherein each prescription identifier is uniquely associated <u>within said prescription registry</u> with an individual prescription, and wherein each prescription identifier is created using either a sequential assignment process or a pseudo-random assignment process;

a plurality of member devices connected to said database by means of a network by which members may upload their prescription information to said database;

a plurality of member services provider computers connected to said computer network, said member services provider computers comprising member services provider software operable to assist said

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members to upload their prescription information to said <u>multi-source</u> database; and

a plurality of pharmacy computers comprising pharmacy software operable to access said prescription information stored on said <u>multi-source</u> database, wherein said pharmacy computers are only allowed to access prescriptions for which they have been authorized by said members by means of said member devices <u>utilizing said prescription identifier associated with such prescription, and wherein each of said pharmacy computers are not allowed to access prescriptions for which any other of said pharmacy computers have previously been allowed to access prescriptions utilizing said prescription identifier associated with such prescription</u>.

17. (original) The prescription registry service according to claim 16, wherein said members must surrender their original prescription slips to the prescription registry service before their prescription information are made accessible to said pharmacies.

18. (original) The prescription registry service according to claim 16, wherein said database is configured to lock from further access any prescription information that have been accepted for filling by said pharmacies.

19. (original) The prescription registry service according to claim 16, wherein said members authorize said pharmacies to fill their prescription information by providing said pharmacies with a prescription number and a fill code.

20. (original) The prescription registry service according to claim 9, wherein said pharmacies agree to pay said prescription registry service in a predetermined fee for each prescription filled by said pharmacies.